

THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN
15 Uenohara
Nakano Ku
Tokyo, Japan
May 14, 1936

Dear Friends and Partners in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Greetings in His Precious Name with Zechariah 4:6

In the goodness and graciousness of Our Lord I am now in the land to which He has called me to serve and magnify His name. He has answered our prayers far in abundance of what we asked or even thought.

On April 14th I said goodbye to my dear parents and sisters and sailed on the Taiyo Maru for San Francisco. Truly in many ways it was hard to leave them but I cannot forget the words of Our Lord Jesus when he said, "If any man leave father or mother or brothers or sisters for my sake and the gospel, he shall receive a hundred fold in this life and in the life to come". With all my heart I believe His word and know that in reality I have only made a good investment and have left nothing to serve Him for, **GOD IS NO MAN'S DEBTOR.**

On April 15th arrived in San Francisco and stayed there two days with my dear Aunt and Uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Grunigen Jr. Had a very enjoyable time with them. On Thursday the 16th they had a little farewell party at their lovely home and we had a very joyous time in the Lord Jesus. Truly I can look back to a very pleasant evening, the last one in the homeland, a real good time in the Lord.

On April 17th sailed from San Francisco for the great open sea. The Lord put that wonderful thrill in the heart of knowing that one was in His will and obeying His command to GO. Great grace was given in leaving and a forward look to the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Because of the strike of dock workers going on in San Francisco at that time the ship was unable to take on its cargo so we set out to sea with no ballast. There were very few passengers on board comparatively. The Lord in His goodness had gone before and provided wonderful companionship in three wonderful missionaries from the China Inland Mission. Mr and Mrs George Harriss and Miss Grace Emblen. Miss Emblen was taken captive by the Red army in China composed of 20,000, about a year and a half ago. The same time that Mr. Haman and Mr. Bosshart were taken. After eight days she was left to die on a mountainside. God in His goodness spared her life to continue work for Him. The four of us had times of joyous times in the Lord. Also on board were two Lutheran ministers and Dr. and Mrs. Flemming of the Berkely Divinity School. Miss Meader of Judson College, Burma, was also with us. Most of the trip to Honolulu and then on to Yokohama the weather was quite cloudy and the sea quite rough. Because of the lack of ballast the old ship rocked a lot but I wasn't a bit sea sick and didn't miss a single meal on the whole trip.

On April 23rd arrived in Honolulu and was met at the dock by my cousin Charles Pietsch. He took me around the island showing me all the places of interest. We visited Pearl Harbor and Schofield Barracks, and in the meantime had to change a tire on the car and had quite a hard time because when we got the tire off, the car fell off the jack and then the jack was too large to get under the back axle. But finally we got it fixed and continued on our way. Then we went out to his home and met my three other cousins and my aunt. My uncle was then in the United States so that I did not get to see him. Their home is on the other side of the island from Honolulu in a town called Lanikai. There is a very beautiful beach there better for swimming than Waikiki and so we went in swimming in back of their home. We didn't realize how late it was getting nor did I realize how long it would take to get back to Honolulu. Finally we realized it was four o'clock and that we should soon be leaving to catch the boat which left at five. In fact we had to rush a great deal and it was only because of

the Lord's wonderful goodness and the fine driving on the part of my cousin David that we got to the dock about thirty seconds before the ship pulled out of the wharf. The chief steward the the purser were standing at the gangplank with open arms to greet me fearing that they might have lost one of their passengers. On the whole trip the Japanese showed a most wonderful way of serving the public and in showing interest in each one of the passengers. They went to a great deal of trouble to give us a good time and so we might enjoy ourselves. It was a little taste of Japan beforehand to be on that ship. The Taiyo Maru was a World-War prize captured from the Germans during the war and converted into a passenger ship. The ship was kept very clean and the crew ^{were} very polite. Never before had I seen anything like it. During the whole trip had an outside cabin all to my self as travel was light. It made it wonderful to study God's word and to be alone with Him Who sends me forth. To dwell in His Presence is very sweet.

One of the officers on the Taiyo Maru was a fine Christian young Japanese. He had gone to Nautical School here in Japan and while there came under the influence of a Christian. He accepted Christ as his own personal Saviour. He is from a Buddhist home and so has no family encouragement. Each Sunday aboard the ship he has a class for members of the crew. He goes to great trouble to have songs printed for them and then he teaches them out of the word of God. My how those men could sing and how Brother Sujikawa could speak of the things of God and of His Son our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. Surely it was wonderful to have this contact before reaching Japan with this Christian officer.

During most of the trip the weather had been quite overcast. It had been my prayer that if it pleased the Lord my first glimpses of Japan would be good. On awaking on Sunday the third of May the sky was very dark. In the afternoon we were to get our first glimpses of land, it looked doubtful that we would get a very clear view. Almost like a miracle suddenly the sky cleared about noon and in a short time we could see the outline of the coast. During all the afternoon we could see the coast. About five oclock we entered Yedo Bay and ahead of us in outline was Mt. Fuji. Finally about sunset we came directly to the west of it and the sun set behind it in an array of gorgeous color. More than I had hoped or prayed. In speaking of it the chief steward said he never before had seen it so beautiful. Such a wonderful answer to prayer! makes me think of the wonderful promise in Ps. 37: 4 "Delight thyself in the Lord and He shall give thee the desire of thy heart". One can see the reason the Japanese have come to worship Fujiyama. Its symetry and beauty far exceeds any other mountain that I have ever seen. How sad that some worship the created object rather than the creator, Truly our God has revealed Himself in three wonderful ways. First in nature Romans 1:20 Ps. 19:1 Secondly in His Holy Word which is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Thirdly and most wonderful of all, God has revealed Himself in the Person of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Surely this is the greatest revelation of God. Let us worship Him. We are not out here to view the beautiful scenery for heathenism is real and sin is real and we must be about Our Master's Business of winning men for Him. How wonderful however to see His great handiwork. From that first afternoon at sea until now it has been wonderfully clear and each day the joy of the Lord has grown greater in knowing that He is with me and will never leave me nor forsake.

Late Sunday evening of May third we landed in Yokohama. At quarantine the passport inspectors came on board. My inspector was a young Japanese who could speak but little English but finally he understood that I was a missionary and in a most courteous way said that he hoped I would have great success.

Early on Monday morning Brother Anderson and Brother Carlson came down to the boat to meet me. They are the two beloved fellow missionaries on this great field of Japan. Do pray that if it please our Lord soon many may come to re-enforce and help. In entering Japan two things are watched very carefully tobacco and books. Of course I had no tobacco so that score was easy but I was somewhat concerned about the books. Before landing I had been given a

tourists
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and Author

declaration blank saying they wanted the name of every book in my possession. That was almost impossible to do because I had over three hundred scattered in all my bags and trunks. I asked the purser about it and he said just to write down the number and the kind of books I had. When we went to the customs inspector Brother Anderson spoke to the Inspector in perfect Japanese telling him that I had come to their country as a missionary. To our astonishment the Inspector was a Christian and when we told him the books were all Christian books he just looked at a few of them and told us it was allright. We were not charged a cent of duty and all worked out most wonderfully. HE DOETH ALL THINGS WELL - Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid Thine hand upon me. Ps. 139:5

There are many contrasts in this land. Some of them are very hard to get used to for a foreigner. It seems strange to have all the cars going down the wrong side of the street. All these bicycles certainly are hard to dodge. Tokyo is quite a modern city. But let us never forget that 85% of the villages of Japan have never heard the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Japan is far from evangelized. It is my purpose by the grace of God to build upon no man's foundation and go to those who have never heard. Will you not pray that soon I may learn this difficult language and be thrust into the highways and byways.

About a week ago I started ^{at} language school. In the goodness of God I have a very fine teacher who has taught foreigners for forty years. His method is based entirely upon Japanese. Tho he speaks fine English he will not speak a word of it to me. It will take approximately three years for me to get the language. Tho during that time I can do Christian work. Already I am teaching two Japanese boys English. They come each day to read the English Bible and by that contact I am able to speak of the things dear to our hearts. Neither of them are Christians. Will you not pray for them and for me? Lord willing I am expecting another soon. Last Sunday I had the joy of preaching for the first time in Japan. Of course it was in English and our dear Brother Anderson interpreted. My friends I wish you could be here and see the hearty welcome these dear Japanese Christians have given me, the least of all His servants.

The population here is very dense. According to the national census taken on October first 1935 the population of Tokyo is 5,875,667. Compared with the previous census of 1930 when it was 4,970,839 this represents an increase of 904,828. When compared with the census of 1925 it shows an increase of almost two and a half million people. It is easy to see by these figures the way the tide is turning and many are coming to the cities. Approximately seventy percent of all the people in Japan are farmers. In this land no bigger than the state of California there are almost seventy million people. Friends will you not help us in their evangelization? Prayer is the power that moves the arm of God.

Would like to relate a little incident that was a real surprise to me. The other day I was down to the Ginza that is downtown Tokyo and bought a bottle of Listerine. On the way home I left it on the elevated train. Of course in America we would have kissed it goodbye and thought nothing more about it. But not so in Japan. Brother Carlson who was with me told the officer on the platform about it and he phoned to the next station ahead and in fifteen minutes I had it back. This of course was a government railroad and that explains it for each one works for the Emperor and the service is exceptional. This is the modernized side that I have been speaking of. Japan has accepted the Western blessings but we have failed to bring to them in a large measure the great Blessing.

Greetings and salutations in Japan are very long and sometimes when two Japanese meet on the street it takes them quite a while to stop bowing. Their conversation often goes about like this; when translated.

- A. "I have not had the pleasure of hanging myself in your honorable eyes for a long time"
- B. "I was exceedingly rude last time I saw you."
- A. "No; it was surely I who was rude. Please excuse me."
- B. "How is your august health?"
- A. "Very good, thanks to your kind assistance."
- B. "Is the august lady your honorable wife well?"
- A. "Yes thank you; the lazy old woman is quite well."
- B. "And how are your princely children?"
- A. "A thousand thanks for your kind interest. The noisy, dirty little brats are well, too."
- B. "I am now living on a little back street, and my house is awfully small and dirty, but if you can endure it, please honor me with a visit."
- A. "I am overcome with thanks and will surely ascend to your honorable residence and impose my uninteresting self upon your hospitality".
- B. "I will now be very impolite and leave you"
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The signs written in English are also quite astonishing. Many of the signs are written in both Japanese and would-be English. Some of them are these:

SHIRT TAILOR
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As yet I haven't gotten used to bowing down to the floor. ~~and~~ Sitting in Japanese style looks too hard for me to master. Japanese food I enjoy very much tho rice without salt was hard at first.

Never shall I forget all you dear friends have done for me in making it possible for me to be out here in the land of God's choice for me. I can say with all my heart that I am confident that I am in the center of His will. I desire your continued prayers that I may be filled continually with the Knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Col. 1:9-10

AWAY IN FOREIGN LANDS THEY WONDERED
 HOW THEIR SINGLE WORD HAD POWER
 AT HOME THE CHRISTIANS TWO OR THREE
 HAD MET TO PRAY ANY HOUR.

Yours in Our Lord Jesus Christ

Acts 20:24

Timothy Pietsch

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About a week ago I started at language school. In the goodness of God I have a very fine teacher who has taught foreigners for forty years. His method is based entirely upon Japanese. Tho he speaks fine English he will not speak a word of it to me. It will take approximately three years for me to get the language. Tho during that time I can do Christian work. Already I am teaching two Japanese boys English. They come each day to read the English Bible and by that contact I am able to speak of the things dear to our hearts. Neither of them are Christians. Will you not pray for them and for me? Lord willing I am expecting another soon. Last Sunday I had the joy of preaching for the first time in Japan. Of course it was in English and our dear Brother Anderson interpreted. My friends! I wish you could be here and see the hearty welcome these dear Japanese Christians have given me, the least of all His servants.

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 HAD MET TO PRAY AN HOUR.

Yours in Our Lord Jesus Christ

Timothy Pietsch

10 Chikuma
Nakano Ku
Tokyo, Japan
Sept. 21, 1936

Beloved Supporters and Friends:

Greetings in the Lord Jesus with Colossians 1:9-10

In the goodness and graciousness of our Heavenly Father it will soon be five months that I have had the joy and privilege of being here in the land of the Rising Sun, the land of God's choice for me. In looking over these months I am confident that He has led forth to this place and that no sacrifice made in coming and in doing His bidding has been left unpaid by the master for all-ready in joy, peace and in His abiding Presence He has repaid a hundred fold. In every way IT PAYS TO SERVE JESUS.

No doubt many of you have heard of my experience with the Imperial Secret Service. Just after writing my last circular letter in the middle of May I was mistaken for a spy and taken into headquarters next to the Imperial Palace and questioned. It was indeed a very hard and trying experience for I had then been in the country only two weeks and could speak only a very few words of the language. Of course they tried to question me in English but they knew only a little more English than I knew Japanese. For eight hours I was grilled chased to an armed soldier. They questioned me on almost every imaginable subject from the health of all my relatives to the amount of salary I received. That was the point they could not understand for they had never before heard of anyone who didn't have a salary but simply trusted God to meet all ones needs. They would not allow me to get in touch with my fellow missionaries nor with anyone else during that time of questioning. Finally however I was released after they were quite certain that I was not a spy. In looking back at the incident one has many reasons to thank the Lord. First in being allowed to speak of my best Friend the Lord Jesus and to tell these lost men of what he could do for them. Then it gives one a little insight into the real feeling of the country, in the terrible suspicion that they have and in the fear of one nation for the other. Oh, how we ought to pray these days for the relations between America and Japan that the gospel of Our Lord Jesus might not be hindered. How one longs for the day when righteousness and equity shall be upon the earth and the rightful King shall be upon His throne. "O Lord Jesus come quickly" But until that day may we be faithful to thee even unto death.

Early in the summer I had the wonderful privilege of visiting all of our churches. God wonderfully blessed in the salvation of a few and in the encouraging of the Christians. What a wonderful welcome these dear Japanese gave me. One's heart was warmed as one looked into their faces and could see the effect of the glorious gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Brother Ogoshi, who was acting as my interpreter and I had been out to the islands of Skine and Nejin where we had a very happy time. God is wonderfully working their in the lives of many young people. At that place there has been no pastor for the last twelve years a Christian barber being the leader of the work. These dear folks are hoping soon to be able to build a church with their own money. The tide out on those islands is very treacherous and sometimes when one gets ~~stuck~~ ^{stuck} at its mouth and almost months before a ship can land and take one to Oshima and then back to the mainland.

Finally one evening about eight o'clock the ship left Najima bound for Habu, Oshima. Because of the treacherous tide they did not know how long it would be before another ship could come so they had to take all the cargo and passengers then. The ship was much too small for all. When we got on board it was crowded to the gunwales with cargo and passengers. The sitting rooms had long since ceased being sitting rooms and were no standing rooms. There was no place else to sit except out on the deck with the cargo and what do you suppose the cargo was? Nothing else but about two hundred live pigs in wicker baskets. There was nothing for us to do but to go out and sit with the pigs. Between the smell, the squealing, the cold and the rocking of the ship I shall never forget that ride. In about four hours we landed in Habu and Brother Ogoishi suggested that we go to a Japanese inn for the night. The lady who owned the hotel was a Christian and when she found out that I was a new missionary just come to this land she insisted in going out and calling the other Christians in the town for a meeting. I suggested that she wait until the next day but she said they would be working and if we were there and did not have a meeting they would be greatly disappointed. She went out and in about an hour returned with eight Christians. All that are in the town for there is no church there and no pastor and seldom do they have a Bible teacher. One lady had left a little baby six weeks old to come to the meeting at one in the morning. Great warmth of heart was felt and the Holy Spirit was definitely present. How earnestly did those dear Christians pray and thank God for the meeting. Ever since that meeting I have thought about it and wondered how many Christians we could get out in the homeland on such an occasion. How they did appreciate the Word of God and were so in earnest to hear more. We who have had the privilege all our lives of hearing the gospel seldom stop to think what it would mean if it were scarce. Oh how close we who have the words of life should live to Him that others by our very lives might know we know the True and Living God who has revealed Himself to us thru the Lord Jesus Christ and thru His Holy Spirit who has made Him real to us. BY HIS GRACE WE CAN.

Have felt in my own life that power that comes from having those who have been faithful in prayer for me. One needs your prayers very much during this time of language study for the devil is ever about to trip one if possible. As never before I have felt the devil's power out here yet I have no fear for I am confident that, "He that is for me is greater than he that is against me". Am expecting to continue through the winter teaching University boys to read the English Bible. Will have about twenty. This work has been very encouraging. The language seems to be coming very slowly just now but I have determined by His grace to learn it and learn it thoroughly. "I can do all things thru Christ who strengtheneth me." Would be so happy to have letters from you dear folks. You don't know what they mean.

"BEHIND THE ROARING CANNON
BEHIND THE FLASHING STEEL,
THE DEFENDERS OF THE INNER LINE
STEADY AND CONSTANT KNEEL;
SOME BENT, SOME GRAY AND CRIPPLED,
SOME THREE SCORE YEARS AND TEN
PRAYING; ALWAYS PRAYING
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Acts 20:24

Your missionary for Christ
Timothy Pietsch

Christmas and New Year in Japan

This year being my first in Japan I ~~thought~~^{most interesting} I have experienced many new and interesting customs, but ~~about~~^{the} the strangest have been the celebrations connected with the celebrating of the New Year. Of course being new in this land I still look at things through the eyes of an ignorant foreigner and am not able to appreciate the significance of all this celebrating as do the Japanese. It is a time of great festivity and holiday, in fact it is not just one day but lasts over the first five days of the new year. For many days before the new year comes the people are in preparation for it by decorating the streets and cleaning up the houses.

On the first day of the year the Japanese have a special food they all eat called Omochi. This is prepared in many different ways but the mochi itself is a cake made of flour and water and to ~~eat~~^{digest} it was very hard to digest. Sometimes it is made into a soup and other times toasted and eaten with Japanese bean sauce called shoyu. At this time of year there are also special decorations called 'kadomatsu' which consist of two little pine trees placed in front of the main gate of every good Japanese family. Sometimes these are supplemented with willow branches and rice straw, along with stalks of green bamboo.

In every household unusual preparations are made to celebrate the holidays in the most joyful manner, and business is suspended so far as possible during this period. Houses are cleaned thoroughly and the brooms bound with red and white strings as a seal against their use. New costumes are made—a new bright kimono for every child. Debts are paid—a moral, not a legal obligation but a custom so strongly rooted that people unable to meet their financial obligations at this time have been known to commit suicide which seems to be another national pastime of the Japanese people during all the year.

Every where there is evidence of leisure and apparent joy. From the houses come the sound of cheerful conversation and gaiety. There is no day in Japan quite like the New Year. Friendliness is the keynote of the season. All enmity is forgotten, and foes of yesterday are friends at this time. On New Years day the women remain in the houses while the men go calling on their friends. Callers leave cards at the houses of their friends and acquaintances wishing them "Shinnen Omedeto gozaimas" So universal is this custom that it is impossible to receive each and every visitor and return his compliments so at the entrance to most houses is placed a receptacle for the callers cards. Also millions of personal and greeting cards are sent thru the mails. ^{women go calling on the second day} Presents are given as at Christmas in other countries, and gifts of merchandise are given to their clients and customers by tradesmen. The children and even grown ups have special games they play at this time. Many of the boys fly special kinds of kites and then the little girls clad in beautiful kimonos play a game called 'haguita' something like badminton only without the net. It seems to be a time of great happiness yet underneath one can see that it is only make believe and after a few days the people will go back to stark reality—a sinful nature that knows no lasting happiness outside of simple belief in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

During this season the shrines are much overcrowded by people wishing a happy New year to the spirits of their ancestors and great men. The hot springs are also a place of great resort at this time.

Christmas on the other hand is very quiet here and there is not much rejoicing. This land as a whole does not recognize our Lord Jesus Christ. However some of the department stores put up Christmas trees and try as in America to commercialize the day. However here we were very happy in the Lord together in fellowship with one another and most of all with Him. Christmas day here is a national holiday but not as Christmas but as a memorial day to the decease of the late Emperor Taisho. This of course makes it a day of mourning instead of a day of gladness in remembrance that unto us a Saviour was born.

15 Uenohara
Nakano Ku
Tokyo, Japan
Dec. 31, 1936

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Beloved In our Lord Jesus Christ:

Greetings with Phil. 1:3-6

Again another year has come and gone and we stand on the treshhold of a new one. New in all its hope for greater and bigger things in, and thru, and for our Lord Jesus. This past one has been a very happy one for me in that God in His gracious ness has sent me to this the Land of the Rising Sun. It has seen the answer to many fervent prayers and one has great reason to rejoice in God. "But forgetting those things which are behind"

one would press forward to the great task that lies before in His stregnth and power. "For we fight not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers in high places! Out here one can feel the terrible enthralling power of the wicked one and I would live close to the Blessed Saviour in the study of His word and in prayer that he might never find opportunity to trip me.

Christmas has now past and it was a happy one in the Lord and in fellowship with our beloved missionaries. However it was much different than any I have ever experienced before for it did not seem like Christmas probably because it was my first in a heathen land. Most of the boats on the Pacific have stopped because of the strike on the Pacific Coast so we did not have much mail for Christmas time and then Japan does not recognize Christmas as a national holiday but the same day is recognized as the Memorial Day for the death of the late Emperor Taisho. The big day here in Japan is New Years Day when there is great celebrating for it is everyones birthday. According to the Japanese way of counting I will be twenty five tomorrow. When a baby is born it is one year old and then on the first new year it become two.

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The weather has now become very cold and intense. Although the thermometer never gets below zero here in Tokyo the cold is so intense it seems like thirty and forty below at times. This is because of the terrible humidity that makes the summers so hot and the winters so cold. As for this winter I have never worn so many clothes in all my life before. It is sad to see the way the Japanese heat their house with little charcoal burners called hibachi that give off more gas than heat. They look cold most of the time, and then the paper walls don't keep out very much of the cold. The winter is something to be dreaded. During the winter many of the poorer people will probably freeze to death. Probably many of you know that it has been on my heart for some time to go and live with a Japanese family but has been thought advisable by the senior workers on the field for me to wait until the winter is over. God willing I hope to go early in the spring. Will you not pray for me in this that I may have health and strength?

There are several things that have deeply impressed me here. The respect that the Japanese have in church has been a joy and encouragement to me. They all come to church with their hymn books and Bibles wrapped up in a piece of cloth called a 'furoshiki'. Each one must have his own song book and bring it to church every Sunday as the church does not supply them. Then very quietly after entering the church and finding a seat they bow in silent prayer to God for the service. During the preaching service if any reference is made to scripture which usually is very often they all with one accord turn in their Bibles to the passage to see if it is really so. How I do long that in the homeland Christians would search the WORD daily as did the Jews in the synagogue at Berea. We endeavor out here to emphasize the necessity of dependence upon the Word of God. How we long too that men at home would put their trust in the Living and in the Written Word.

This land seems to be a children's paradise when they live in the land of make believe. Children and old people are the pride of the nation and are great cared for and loved. To see fathers carrying children on their backs in crowded street cars and caring for them just as a mother would is very common. Then boys at the age when usually they hate the sight of girls care very carefully for their younger sisters even carrying them around on their backs.

Did you ever see any one on a street car at home get up and give their seat to a child? That is very common here. All the children and old people sit down while the rest stand. Why should a heathen land so far outstrip a Christian one in courtesy and politeness? How we need these days a revival of Christian love-love for one another. The children even up to the time they are married are greatly cared for and petted but when they are married they come to see life as it really is—a bare reality. This is one reason I am very happy that God has granted to me the privilege of working with the university students here in Tokyo while studying the language. Now they are receptive and have not yet come to the place of grim existence. It has been a great joy to see the growth in grace and love that has taken place in the lives of some of these students. I have been exceedingly busy with Bible classes this fall and I can say that they have been very much worth while, and that the blessing of God has rested upon them. Of course there is much that is disheartening and discouraging but are we looking to men or to God?

Am very sorry that during this Fall my correspondence has had to be greatly diminished because of the many Bible classes I have had. I do trust that you will understand how hard it is to learn a difficult language and then teach those for whom one feels deep responsibility and much necessary preparation. From many of you I have not heard since coming to this land and I would be very happy if you would write. You do not know what it means to receive your letters and to be assured that you are praying for me, who in my self am so weak and helpless. Will you not pray much for me in the light of Ephesians 6:19? My greatest desire in life is that I might be pleasing in His sight and be His faithful and humble servant always ready to do His bidding. "But even the sacrifice of my life I count as nothing if only I may perfect my earthly course and be faithful to the duty which the Lord Jesus has entrusted to me of bearing witness to the gospel of God's grace" Acts 20:24 (Weymouth)

If it is pleasing in the sight of the Lord I hope next year to go up to the mountains where three of our churches are located in the thick of Buddhism and idolatry.

THERE

There has been no missionary in the mountains for over twenty years when our Carlson was there. I hope to make with me a young Christian man and study the language there. The city has so many things to distract from the study of the language that I do feel it very necessary. Then I could help with the church and my teacher and I could go to neighboring towns to hold street meetings. Will you not pray much for me in this. It will mean very primitive conditions and very hard on the health but if it is God's will I will not say "no".

The language is coming along slowly. It certainly is very difficult because of the many readings that are given to the same characters. This is not found in the Chinese readings. Then also many of the readings from China have crept in which make it more difficult. However the characters are quite interesting and sometimes even funny. Pig under a roof is the character for house. A man and two women under a roof make the word unhappiness while for women together form the character for noise. Seems to me the Chinese had a lot of humor and sense when they made the characters but now I wish that it were possible to do away with them and adopt the Roman letters but it seems just now impossible for the authorities to agree on it.

Am praying that this new year will draw each one of us closer to the Lord Jesus and that we might learn more of His love and grace. How one longs for Him to return perhaps it will be this year- Oh joyous thought. I do trust that until He comes each one of us might be used of Him in the winning of precious souls, "catching them from the burning".

"There is a place where thou canst touch the
eyes of blinded men to instant perfect sight.
There is a place where thou canst say "Arise"
to dying captives bound in chains of endless
There is a place where thou canst touch the
store of hoarded gold and free it for the Lord
There is a place - Upon some distant shore
where thou canst send the worker or the word
There is a place where heavens resistless power
responsive moves to thine insistent plea,
There is a place - a quiet trust hour
Where God himself descends and fights for thee
Where is this blessed place? Ah, soul doest thou
ask where? It is the secret place of prayer."



— In front of one of our churches —

15 Uenohara
Nakano ku
Tokyo, Japan
June 1, 1937

Beloved in our Lord Jesus :
Greetings with Eph. 1 : 15-16
'Wherefore I also, after I heard
of your faith and Love unto all
the saints cease not to give thanks
for you in my prayers'

In my last letter
to you all you will remember I
requested your Prayers in my
behalf about my going to live
with a Japanese family.
God in His wonderfull way opened
the door for me to live with a
Christian Japanese family. It is a
very humble Japanese home but I

have great reason to rejoice in God's wonderfull answer to our prayers.
I have a little Japanese room right next door to our church and eat with the
family. Their house was too small so I have a small room alone. For three
months now I have been living in this way and have been very happy
because this is where my heart has been all the time. To live right with the
people and to try and understand them has been my purpose ever since I
came to this land and now I am very glad that the Lord has made it
possible. I sleep on the floor in regular Japanese style, eat Japanese food all
the time and sit on the floor just as good Japanese are supposed to do. The
Lord has granted very good health since I have been out here and I have
much to thank Him for. I even think that I have gained a little weight
since coming here. Possibly it is from eating so much rice for we have it
at every meal. I mentioned the fact that I thought I had gained a little
weight to our pastor and he said, "You remember the case of Daniel and his
three friends dont you? As long as he ate the kings food he was thin but
when he ate the pulse he became fat".

At first I did have a hard time with all Japanese food. Cold rice did sorta turn my stomach. Japanese people cook rice without any salt and when it is cold it tastes like glu. Every morning for breakfast we have been soup called miso-shiru and rice. Now I have gotten so I like it very much. Sometimes I do have quite a time with fish heads, bugs, locusts, sea weed and other thing of the kind but they all come in living with the people and in earnestly trying to win them to our Lord and Saviour. As far as I know there is but one other missionary in all Japan that lives right with the people. He is a young Southern Baptist missionary down in Kyushu which is the island south of this one.

Some have written asking just why we do these things and if we really like it. Since coming here I can see more than ever the necessity of being one with the people and in winning their confidence. The Japanese have a culture much older and much more complex than our own and it is for us to understand their background before we can fully understand them. It seems there is no other way to really understand their natures except to live right with them for when one simply visits them they show but the outside nature of extreme courtesy which sometimes is very cold and distant. But when one lives right with them we come to understand that they are much like ourselves with the same problems and questions in the depths of their hearts that we have. Above all this God has given wonderful opportunities to speak for His name that I would never have otherwise. My Bible classes are well attended now and many come here to the house to read and study the precious Word with me. God in His great mercy has seen fit to bless my small efforts for Him by granting salvation to quite a number of those who have come, and what a joy it has been to me to see their continued growth in grace. Then too in the matter of the language the living right with the people is the best way one can get this trying and difficult language. My studies are coming along nicely now. I am now reading the fifth grammar school reader which to me is indeed very difficult.

About the likes and dislikes. It seems to me that they have nothing to do with real missionary work at all. God has commanded to Go and we go knowing that He will supply our every need and will give health and strength in answer to the prayer of simple faith. Of course we don't like to eat bugs, sea weed and continuous rice, to sleep on the floor and to sit on the floor but that has nothing to do with the case at all. Men in the name of business

will endure anything for the sake of money, and oh how much should we, for the sake of millions of lost souls in this land who have never heard of God's wonderful gift to lost sinners the Lord Jesus and His death upon the cross of Calvary. Should we not be willing to endure anything for the glory of His precious name? Will you not continue to pray much for me in the light of Ephesians 6:19?

God willing this summer I am going to the province of Hida in Gifu Kén which is in central Japan near the Japan Sea. This is admitted to be one of the hardest places in all Japan for Christian work. We have three small churches there struggling under great difficulties in the midst of intense Buddhism and Shintoism. I hope to be an encouragement to our Christians there, also to hold street meetings and give out tracts and then to study. Will you pray much for me as one endeavors to speak of wonders of His grace. The people in this part of the country speak another dialect so it will be quite difficult. I am counting much on your prayers in my behalf.

"Behind the roaring cannon, behind the flashing steel,
The defenders of the Inner Line steady and constant kneel,
Some bent, some gray and crippled, some three score years and ten.
Praying, always praying, for the front line fighting men."

Since the first of the year the Lord has tested in ways that one has never been tested and tried before. Some are things that are impossible to understand at the present time, and though we cannot understand we'll trust Him any way. Since the first of April postage has been exactly doubled in this country. That probably will explain to some of you why you haven't received word from me as often as you did before. Lately there has also been placed a very heavy penalty on letters that have postage due. For instance when a letter has two cents postage due one must pay forty sen which is about a thousand percent penalty. That of course makes things quite hard but we are confident that Our Father will supply our every need and will withhold no good thing. Since February when we had a change of government prices have gone up terribly - about fifty percent on most everything.

Probably it will surprise you to know that Buddhist idols are still being built in this country, and now bigger and more costly than ever before. One has just been completed that is over two hundred feet high and cost hundreds of thousands of yen to build. There are also nine more under construction at the present time three of which are bigger than the one

mentioned above. Forty years ago missionaries used to speak of Japan as going to be a Christian nation some day. That is far from the thoughts of even the most optimistic today for it seems the Japanese people have very definitely rejected our Lord and Saviour. Twenty years ago it was said there were two hundred thousand Christians in Japan. Today that figure seems a little high and on every hand we hear of the retrenching and decayal of the Christian church. Things do look bad here but we are not discouraged because we know that "He who is for us is greater than he who is against us"

With Christian love to you all and waiting to receive a letter from you.

Your missionary for Christ in Japan

Acts 20 : 24

Timothy Pie'sch

I Tim. 4 : 12

When you write it is best to our mission headquarters here.

15 Uenohara, Nakano Ku, Tokyo

Enclosed you will find a little Japanese tract I have written entitled

"What you must know and believe in order to have Eternal Life"

Please pass it on to a Japanese friend.



15 Uenohara
Nakano Ku
Tokyo, Japan
October 1, 1937

Beloved in Christ:

Greetings in His Name "Tis
so sweet to trust in Jesus-Just
to take Him at His Word"

I am again back in Tokyo
after a very hard and taxing
summer. God has wonderfully
answered your prayers and I
would plead with you to con-
tinue, to pray that He will
glorify His name even thru me.
To those of you who have
written during the summer and
have received no answer as yet
I humbly beg your pardon for
I have been just too busy to
write and then too it isn't any
too safe to write much these
days. I am hurrying this cir-
cular letter with a prayer that
it will cause you dear ones at
home to pray more for us out

here in this needy land. Without that strength that comes thru
continual prayer we are like engines without steam.

Oh! PRAY. PRAY. PRAY. James 5:16 Rev. 22:20

The last week in June I took a trip with our Pastor Matsuda of
Tokyo here with whom I live and went out to the islands. I was
greatly impressed by many things on this trip but especially by our
small church in Neejima which is on an island of about five thousand
people. The church is composed almost entirely of young people and
has no pastor but a Godly Christian man who is the island photo-
grapher and barber is the leader of the work. The people are very
poor there being mostly farmers and fishers. The young men must
go to the fields early in the morning and stay until late at night so
that the meetings there sometimes do not begin until ten or eleven
at night when the farmers have come back. You see they make a
real sacrifice for His sake.

This small church on Neejima has caught a vision of the lost and dying around them and of the power of the Precious gospel and so have saved a little money during the last year for the evangelism of the next island which is about twenty miles away. They invited our Tokyo pastor here to come out and go with them to the next island called Koze. Then our young student pastor Mr. Kisita and a young man from the local church who is a tailor joined us and we went to Koze where there was but one Christian on the whole island. She was the wife of the grammar school principal and was then at the point of death with tuberculous which is so prevalent out here. We since have heard that she has passed away. This was the first time that a missionary had ever gone to the island and never before had they ever seen a white man. I was very cordially welcomed by the people. I sang to the children in the grammar school "Jesus loves me" in English and then in simple Japanese tried to explain what it meant. They were very happy. Our pastor also spoke to them explaining fully the way of salvation thru the precious redemption that Christ gives to them that believe. We held meetings on the street also for the children but there were more grown up people there than children and many heard the gospel in this way. We have reasons to believe that most all of the two thousand people on this island heard the gospel during our visit. Will you not pray that the Holy Spirit will bless and water the seed that has been sown so that when we return next year God willing we may see the fruit of our labors there. It was indeed a great joy to me to be allowed in His grace to be the first white man ever to set foot on that island and to tell the wonders of His love and mercy. There were many hardships for the fleas were simply terrible and at the end of a week there I was a mass of flea bites. Then too the food was very poor and even our Japanese could hardly stand it. God has wonderfully answered our prayers in the matter of health to Him be all praise and honour. During this time the waves were very high and we had to stay at different places longer than we expected. At one place we were held up four days by the very rough weather. It gave us time to be Alone with Him and to seek His face and Favour. Tho it was trying for we were caused to miss the dedication of our new church on Oshima.

After returning from the islands about the middle of July, I then went up to our very needy field of Hida in Gifu Ken. God was very present during the three weeks that I was there. We held special meetings in the three towns in which we have churches. Many people

would gather on the streets to hear the preaching, but it was impossible to get them inside. I studied also quite a little this summer both while at the islands and then in Hida. I feel I have learned more this summer than even during the past year in school. It was great fun and practice being with the Japanese twenty four hours a day. God did bless our meetings. Each morning for an hour we had special prayer and Bible study meetings for Christians which were especially blessed ones. However because of the present existing conditions in this country opposition began to arise of which is impossible to write at the present time. Finally we were asked to leave Hida. I then went to visit our beloved missionaries the Carlsons who were in a summer resort which is a very beautiful place with a beautiful lake and many trees. I was there for three weeks with them and then felt I should return to Hida which I did for four days on my way back here to Tokyo. I felt the Lord calling me back to the very place from which I was forced to leave. God blessed this last visit very much tho we held no special meetings we encouraged the Christians to go on in faith and in the power of His might. It was a great joy to pray with a dear old lady who is very sick and at the point of death with boils. She prayed so beautifully in simple faith that one could hardly restrain tears. Her faith in God is very deep and she is trusting in the blood of Christ as the remission for all her sins. "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believers ear."

No doubt you are wondering about the picture on the front of this letter. It is a picture of worshippers before a shinto shrine. Some of you may have seen it in the Moody Monthly. I took it while down in Kyoto about five months ago. During the recent World Education Conference which was held here in Tokyo this summer all the delegates at the beginning of the conference went out to the great Meiji Shrine here in Tokyo. According to the leaders it was but to pay respects to the great and worthy Emperor who was a real sovereign and worthy of respect but in the vernacular of the everyday newspapers it said, "And in the very presence of God this great host solemnly worshipped."

I am again living with our beloved Pastor Matsuda, here in Tokyo. He is a real man of God and a true servant of our Lord. Some have written asking what we need. We need many things but most of all that grace that comes alone from Him which no man can give. That comes from being constantly in the center of His will and purpose and that is just where I desire to ever be. I need very much your prayers in my behalf that I may have

strength for the great task that God has set before me. I feel the Lord very definitely called me to go to a city called Nagoya when I have finished language study to open new work there. Ever since I have come to Japan I have asked the Lord to send me to the hardest place and give me the hardest job and I have looked around while praying and have seen that place to be Nagoya. All the missionaries there are greatly discouraged because of the terrible opposition for Shinto is very strong there. This is the third largest city in Japan but few missionaries are there and then mostly school teachers. From there one can branch out into many smaller places. Will you not pray with me in this vision that I have of the lost in Nagoya? I need your prayers and your help in taking the gospel to these needy, oh so needy people but who so blind to their own need and cannot see that what they need most of all is Jesus.

Will you pray especially for:—

1. Japan that her heart may be turned toward the true and living God and seek Him thru His Son our Lord Jesus, at this time of National Crisis.
2. For me, that I may have His grace while living here in a Japanese home and be a blessing to many as I continue my language study. That my health may continue thru the cold winter months.
3. For Nagoya that God will in His own time provide the way for me to go and open a new church there.
4. For my Bible classes that I have here in Tokyo with University boys. That many who come may truly be saved and tell others of Him.
5. For Hida where we were this summer and for our three in intense Buddhism and Shintoism.

Now please do not worry about me for I know that I am safe in His hands no matter what happens and it is my purpose either by life or by death to honour God. I would so enjoy hearing from some of you who receive my letters but never write. Your Missionary for Christ in Japan.

With Christian love, Acts 20:24

Timothy Pietsch



15 Uenohara
Nakano-Ku
Tokyo, Japan
May 3, 1938

Beloved in Christ our Lord :

Greetings in His name,

"NO MAN HAS THE RIGHT
TO HEAR THE GOSPEL
TWICE UNTIL EVERY
CREATURE HAS HEARD
IT ONCE"

In the wonderfull goodness and care of our Lord Jesus it is just two years ago today that I landed in this land of Japan. Since that time there have been many things to perplex and hinder yet-He has been ever near to comfort and sustain. "HE NEVER FAILS" Never once have I been sorry that God called me to Japan and I am confident that it was His will. It has been no sacrifice but a real joy and the greatest privilege a person can have to be in the service of Christ and to be one of His Ambassadors. Tis wonderfull to see the way in which God works out ever detail in a persons life when we committ it fully into His care and in spite of our weakness and failures, He blesses and surely His hand has been upon us for good.

It is now more than fifteen months that I have lived in complete Japanese style, eating Japanese food, sleeping on the floor, wearing Japanese clothes and doing all the rest of the things that go with living with the people and trying to learn the language and customs. Many things have not been easy BUT GOD has been here and has wonderfully answered prayers. "And when He putteth forth His own sheep He goeth before them" John 10:4. Personal work I'm finding is the best way of reaching the people and it has been my joy to lead some to Christ while I have been here and that is most important of all, willingly would I lay down my life that some might come to know Him, whom to know aright is life eternal.

"But even the sacrifice of my life I count as nothing if only I may prove faithfull to the duty which the Lord has entrusted me of bearing witness to the gospel of God's grace" Acts 20:24 Weymouth.

Since I have been living here in this little Japanese home I have been in very fine health and the food has seemed to agree with me in spite of the fact that its been hard to eat some of it at times. Have gained over twenty pounds since I have been here and am in perfect health.

Even during this cold winter in this paper house He has protected me and haven't even had a cold. Am confident that this has been in answer to the prayers of you faithfull ones at home and I would thank you for upholding me the least of His servants before the throne of His mercy. "Where there is much prayer--there is much power; where there is little prayer--there is little power; where there is no prayer there is no power."

The language is still quite a problem and I imagine that it will always be so and one cannot give up studying. When one studies His word in a foreign tongue it seems to take on new meaning and many things we overlook in our own language are noted. During these days I'm endeavoring to learn Scripture verses in Japanese knowing that if I let it go any longer it will be harder. The Japanese language is in no wise suitable to Christianity and it is indeed very difficult to express oneself freely in it. Words that are needed to express the true and eternal God and His love are lacking. For instance, the word "Kami" which is used as "God" in no wise conveys that meaning to a Japanese mind for it might mean a sheet of paper, the hair of your head or any Shinto idol or spirit. However, God has given wonderful access in the language and now am able to preach in it to some extent. Living here in this way has indeed been a help along that line. In every case it might not be advisable to live with the Japanese because of health and other reasons but I was sure God lead me here and He has blessed wonderfully while here.

Some have written asking me what mission I'm working under and of course I was greatly surprised for I thought surely all my friends knew that. In wonderful ways while studying at Moody Bible Institute the Lord brought me into contact with the mission known as the Scandinavian Alliance Mission. Up till that time I had never heard of it. But it pleased God to direct me to it and to send me out to this land. Our mission is a faith mission, which means, we look to Him to supply all our needs, having no guaranteed salaries but trusting Him who sends us forth to supply our needs while here thru His faithfull believing children.

Our mission was begun by a very Godly Swedish Evangelist named Fredrick Franson. He heard the call of Hudson Taylor for a thousand missionaries for China and felt God calling him to get a hundred of them and their support. God in wonderful ways worked and his labors were rewarded and not only did he send missionaries to China but here to Japan, to Mongolia, to India, Africa and finally South America.

In the beginning all were Scandinavian American young people but now all nationalities and denominations are accepted if they are truly saved, have a knowledge of His Word and a zeal for the lost. In the mission now there are about two hundred missionaries but only four here on our Japan field. To me it has been a great joy to belong to a mission such as this for I know that God has lead me and that this is His place for me. 'Tis great to watch the way in which He supplies our needs and He never fails. Some have said, "well it must be a rather hard hand to mouth existence to live on faith" and we can reply joyfully, "Yes it is, because its always GOD'S HAND to our mouth"

Early this summer I'm hoping again to go out to the islands in the Pacific where I went last year with our Pastor in evangelistic work. These islands are just over a days journey by ship from Tokyo. You will probably remember that last year it was my privilege to go to an island called Cozu where a missionary had never been before and where the people never before had seen a foreigner. I'm trusting if it be pleasing in His sight to go again and would ask your prayers. During these trying days here in the Orient we trust you will not forget to uphold us much in prayer and remember that Japan needs missionaries today as she never needed them before. It is still possible for missionaries to come out here and surely there must be some young people at home who love Christ and are not cowards, who are willing to face a hard task for His sake. During these days we are not entering into political matters but are simply seeking to do that for which we came to this land, of preaching Christ and Him crucified. We wonder how long the door will be open for us to proclaim His love to this land? It seems that the church at home has greatly failed our Lord in the work of this land. How much do you pray for Japan? Cannot much of the present situation be attributed to the fact that we have failed Him? At this time I would pledge myself anew to Him to do His will no matter what it may cost, and will look to Him for His strength and grace. God has put a love in my heart for these people and gladly will we give our lives that they may know of Him.

"And I sought for a man among them to make up the hedge,

and stand in the gap before me for the land that I should not destroy it; But I found none" Ez. 22:30

And now I'd like to write you of the great joy that He has sent to my life and of the wonderfull leading of God. God willing this coming September 20th if it be pleasing in His sight Im hoping to be married to a very fine Christian girl named Helen Dozier who was born out in this land of missionary parents and is a second generation missionary. Am confident that it is His will and cannot cease to thank Him for His leading and guidance. Tis great to trust every thing into His care and see the way in which He does exceedinly abundantly above that which we ask or think. Having been born in this land Helen speaks Japanese very fluently, she is also a very talented musician but most of all deeply spiritually minded and willing to make any sacrifice that His name might be magnified. She is now working on the island south of this one named Kyushu under the Southern Baptist Mission; but God willing is coming into our mission. This has indeed been a problem to us but we feel it His will for Helen to come to our mission rather than my going to hers. We would ask your prayers in our behalf that in His time and way He will supply the needed support. Phil. 4:19

In a previous letter I wrote you of the leading of the Lord to work near Nagoya which seems to me to be one of most needy places in all Japan and very thickly populated. In His time and way we are hoping to go, tho we do not see the way open as yet. It will be real pioneer work for as yet our mission has no work there and we would work on no mans foundation but go where there are no other missionaries and would seek the lost who have never heard of Christ. we would like to open a new station, will you help us? Will you pray that He will supply the needs for this. "Pray for me that utterance may be given unto me that I may open my mouth boldly to make know the mystery of the gospel" Eph. 6:19

"Away in foreign lands they wondered

How their single word had power,

At home the Christians two or three

Had met to pray an hour".

It will probably be wise to continue to send letters to our mission headquarters here in Tokyo which is noted above. Would be so happy to hear from some of you who have never written assuring us of your prayers, and too letters mean much just now.

Love to you all in the Name of Christ our Lord

Your for Christ in Japan

Timothy Pietsch

"GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE
GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE" Mark 16:15



SEINAN GAKUIN

Nishi Shin-Machi

Fukuoka, Japan

November 20, 1938

Beloved Friends in Christ:

Greetings in His Precious Name

"He knows, he loves? He cares! nothing this truth can dim. he gives the very best to those, who leave the choice to him"

How true and real we have found the above words to be and we cannot cease to thank God for the wonderful way in which He has lead and guided and answered all our prayers in a way far above that which we ever asked or even thought. Rejoice with us in the goodness of our God. Truly to let Him have His way in ones life is no mistake, even tho at times it does seem hard to take His way,

yet in the end tis far better than the plans we had for God to have for us, or the own selfish desires of the flesh.

"God always gives a better thing than he takes away; exceeding joys tomorrow for the tears we shed today; immeasurable treasure for the things we counted loss; yea, an hundred fold of blessing for the bearing of the cross"

On September twentieth we were married here in Fukuoka in the little chapel church where Helen has attended since childhood and of which her father was the first pastor. Helen's mother and grandmother returned from furlough in August having spent over a year in America. It was so good to have them back for the wedding and that is what we had been waiting for. My folks had hoped to come but found it impossible at the present time but they hope to come sometime in the future. Mary Ellen and Edwin Dozier, Helen's brother and sister were home on furlough and we were so sorry that they could not be here. Dr. Ray the oldest missionary of the Southern Baptist Mission in Japan preformed the ceremony assisted by three Japanese brethren: Pastor Shimose of the Southern Baptist Mission, Pastor Matsuda of the Scandinavian Alliance Mission and Mr. Hara President of the girls school in

which Helen has been teaching. The wedding was at five thirty in the evening. The church was very beautifully decorated with the open Bible massed around by palms and Japanese flower arrangements. Miss Alma Graves was the Maid of Honor and Rev. Otto DeCamp of Korea the bestman. After the ceremony we had a little reception on the lawn of Helen's mother's home. About two hundred of our Japanese and foreign friends gathered. At that time several little speeches were made in Japanese and English, one by President Arakawa of the Kyushu Imperial University who is a very earnest and active Christian man. Then by President Mizumachi of Seinan Gakuin the school that Helen's father founded and of which he was president until he was called to his heavenly reward. Mr. Sasaki, Dean of the Middle School and Pastor Matsuda of Tokyo also gave little congratulatory messages. At this time also Helen was presented with her commission from the Board of Directors of our mission by Mr. Carlson who came down from Tokyo. It was indeed a very happy time for us all and thank you so much for the lovely ways in which you have remembered us, we do appreciate it very much.

We have put the Lord Jesus Christ first in our lives and in our home and we want Him always to be the Head. One of our missionary friends gave us a lovely motto that is now in our living room which says in gold letters, "That in all things He might have the pre-eminence." This is indeed the desire of our lives from the very beginning that Christ might be glorified thru us either by life or by death. "Each for the other, both for the Lord," has been the motto of my parents and how God has blessed each one of us who come from that home. We do desire to live for Him and for each other and in every way possible glorify His name. We are truly thankful for the joy He has given us in being His ambassadors in a foreign land for no greater privilege is given to the sons of men. We cannot understand why He should have chosen us the weakest of all His children to be His messengers to this needy land during these most trying days, but we are most thankful that He has and in every way endeavor to make Him known. We realize that the greatest witness for Christ in any land is a Christian home and we desire that our's should in every sense of the word be truly Christian as those from which God has sent us. We are both so thankful to Him for then Godly influence we have had in our childhood and during these days together we have often mentioned how good God has been to us in giving us both such godly parents. The most blessed times we have together are those times alone with Him our Head. Each morning we have our devotions in Japanese and in the evenings we use English.

This year, until next June we are here in Fukuoka on the southern island of Japan called Kyushu. We are living in the home of Helen's brother who is home on furlough this year. I am continuing my studies in the language which is indeed very difficult. One of the Imperial Universities is here in Fukuoka and I'm hoping to take some work there thru the winter. Will you pray with us that each contact I have in the University may be used to further His work in this land. Since I had to study this year anyway we felt after much prayer for His leading that it was better to be here this year than in Tokyo so that Helen could continue her work for awhile until someone could come out to take her place. Too, it is very nice to have Mother and Grandmother next door to us here and we are so thankful that He has lead us here this year, tho as you know our hearts are out in the country districts where we long to go to make Christ known. Oh will you not pray that we can go as soon as possible for soon it may be too late. We feel that the country districts of Japan have never heard the gospel of our Lord and Saviour. Japan is far from evangelised and if ever missionaries were needed here tis now. Some missions are now withdrawing their workers from Japan but do not the present circumstances in the Far East speak loud enough to say that Japan needs Christ and the only way she is to hear is thru real self sacrificing missionaries who will go out into the ways and by ways and compel them to come in." There are now approximately two hundred thousand Christians in Japan. This number has remained constant for the last twenty five years without any increase. There have been added to the church only as many as have left or died. Think of this for a moment! How would you like to live in the midst of a land where only one person out of every three hundred and fifty were Christians and love our Saviour. Surely we cannot say that Japan is evangelized but more pagan today than she was even two and a half years ago when we came to Japan. Oh we plead with you friends to pray that God will send forth laborers into His harvest field. We cannot rely upon our own strength to fight His battles but we must have His, which He provides to those who ask Him. Oh pray for us the weakest of all His children. We would like to write you many of our problems these days so that you might pray very definitely for us but we feel that it would be very unwise at the present time to do so. But we plead with you to PRAY IN THE SPIRIT. We are looking to Him to supply Helen's support and then to supply the needed funds to open work in Nagoya. Will you back us as we seek to storm one of the strong holds of Satan in this land. Pray for us in the light of Ephesians 6:12-19.

Surely we believe that there are still young people at home who could give their lives for the Lord in this needy land. Japan is still open to the gospel but for how long we do not know. The time is now ripe for new missionaries to come, why should we allow circumstances to hinder us from talking of the most blessed person living. We need young men especially who have a real love for souls who are willing if necessary to live with the people and like them and who are willing to endure any hardship that He might be glorified. If there are any who read this letter and are interested in the work of this land we will be so glad to hear from you and we will write you more of the real need. Also you who are older, we ask you to pray very much for us, also will you pass this letter on to some young person with a prayer that the Master of the Vineyard will send forth laborers into His harvest field. We feel that soon our Lord will come and we have but a short time left to proclaim the glorious gospel. Until He comes we must be very busy in His vineyard. First of all we must be much in prayer for that is the greatest and most important work that any servant of God can do. Then we must also be personal workers for when a man truly prays he also is interested in the salvation of others and does all he can to win them. Then we can give if we cannot go but each one must be a witness in some way. It is our earnest desire to each day be better fishers of men. Will you now as you read this letter bow your head and ask God what is your place in the evangelization of Japan? Will you help us to reach the unreached?

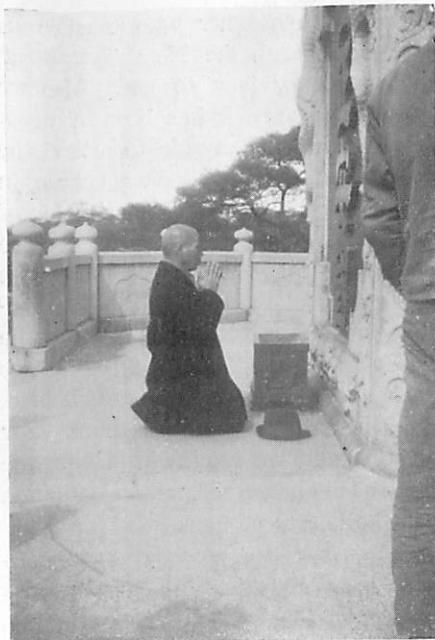
By the time this letter reaches you it will be the holiday season again and we do pray that each one of you may have a very joyous Christmas in the knowledge of a risen living Saviour and a Blessed New Year with Him each step of the way. We pray that the New Year might find us each one more like the Lord Jesus than this one has. Two years ago I sent you Romans 16:26 as a promise and I would like to send it this year again. I trust that you will look it up and mark it as one of His own promises to you. Perhaps this year our Saviour will come or better still perhaps even before this letter reaches you. Oh! Lord Jesus Come quickly. Yet until that time keep us faithful and true to the at any cost.

Because of the high prices now prevailing in Japan we are able to write only two circulars a year whereas we wrote four previously. The price of stamps has exactly doubled so I trust that you will forgive hearing from us less often.

Acts 20:24

Yours for Christ in Japan

Helen and Tim Pitsch



Seinan Gakuin
Nishi Shin Ma
Fukuoka, Japan
June 15, 1939

BELOVED IN CHRIST OUR LORD :

Greetings in His Name with those glad words in Luke 21:28 : "When ye see these things come to pass, lift up your heads for your REDEMPTION draweth nigh."

Surely these are wonderful days in which we live, and surely every one of us who love and believe His Word, "I will come again," have no reason to fear defeat but to rejoice, for the KING cometh. In spite of all the things that disturb and distress, to those who are His chosen, they bring not fear but joyful expectancy, knowing that 'these things' are but the

signs of His coming. In difficulty be discouraged? No! Rejoice and again I say rejoice, because He that is for us is greater than he that is against us. As we look about us in this needy land of Japan we find little reason to rejoice, but when we look UP, He is just the same and ever is a cause of great rejoicing to those who put their trust in Him.

We are sorry that it has been so long since we wrote our last circular letter. We do thank you for writing to us. All the letters have indeed been appreciated. It is so good to hear from you, and your letters saying that you are praying for us do rejoice our hearts. Our work here is not easy and the results are so small, yet we know that thru prayer and trust in Him we shall finally win the victory. We do hope that you shall continue much in prayer for us in the light of Ephesians 6:19.

As we look back over the days since we last wrote you we are ashamed of having accomplished so little for our Lord and Saviour and of being such unworthy missionaries. But we thank God for the way He has taken care of us and has met our every need. Surely no good thing have we lacked. We thank you for the gifts you have sent. We know that you do it "unto Him." We feel so unworthy of your trust, but by His grace we shall endeavor to get the gospel out to those who have never heard. As the Lord has taken care of us in the past, so we are confident that He will take care of us in the future. "IT PAYS TO SIMPLY TRUST HIM."

We thank God for the way He has helped us in the language. Of course we are far from perfect but still it comes much more freely than it did.

This winter and the spring we have had a fine teacher who teaches us the Bible, and we have read almost completely through the New Testament, studying every Chinese character that I did not know how to use. Also we have endeavored to memorize passages of scripture, and it has been a great help to us in our work. One day a week I have been able to attend the Imperial University here in the city. During the fall term I took a course in Japanese history and now am listening to some lectures on the relationship of Shintoism and Christianity. We have felt this a very necessary study at the present time, but we have come to the conclusion that there can be no point of relationship between the gospel of our Lord and Saviour and other religions. "For the carnal mind is enmity against God" Rom. 8;7 "And the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God" I Cor. 2;14." Thus we believe more than ever that our only task is to preach Christ Crucified, Buried, Risen, and Coming again to the exclusion of every other thing. For the Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation and we rejoice in leaving the results to Him. We are not here as politicians to change the political situation but to preach Christ who alone can change the hearts of men.

About three hundred yards from the Campus of the Imperial University in which I have been studying, is one of the largest bronze statues in all the world. It is an image of the Buddhist prophet Nichiren. On the front of this letter is a picture of an old farmer on his knees praying before this idol of Nichiren. "If our gospel be hid it is hid to those who are lost, in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not." Even so close to one of the great educational centers of Japan, idol worship can be seen and it makes one's heart ache for the countless thousands in this land who have never heard of Jesus our Lord and Saviour who came to save sinners.

We have letters lately stating surprise in our request for new missionaries for Japan. Many have had the prevalent idea that Japan is civilized and therefore does not need missionaries nor the gospel of our Lord Jesus. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Do you realize that at the present time there are less than six hundred missionaries in the whole of Japan and that only one tenth of one percent of the Japanese people profess faith in Christ our Lord? It is estimated that less than one thousand of the eleven thousand towns and villages of Japan has ever had a gospel witness, and at the present time only about five hundred have a witness to Christ of any kind. Sorry to say more than half of all of Japan's missionaries are in Tokyo. We realize that where ever there are lost souls there is a great need but we feel definitely that the Lord is calling us to work in the neglected sections, so by His grace we hope to go into the country, into the highways and byways and compel them to come in. This kind of work has been greatly neglected in Japan and we feel that there is where the great need lies. The farmers are suffering the most from the present situation. They all have great debts. It is estimated

that the average debt of every farmer in Japan is about a thousand yen, or about three years labor. The young men have been called to the colors and the women are now having to do most of the work and they are in great difficulty. We believe now the time is ripe to give out the gospel as widely as possible. Will you help us to reach the more than sixty percent of Japan's people who are still unreached with the gospel message? We cannot do it alone, but by His grace, thru prayer, we are not afraid to tackle the impossible. We are looking to Him for strength and help and the supply of every need. We know HE NEVER FAILS.

Will you not pray the Lord of the Harvest that He will send forth laborers into His Harvest field? The time is now ripe for new workers, and Japan has been neglected so long. Can we continue to allow her to go on without a knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ who can alone solve every problem? We believe that there are young people who will read this letter who could come to Japan as missionaries if they would. May God grant that some may soon come to re-inforce us in this great and needy field. Probably you remember that I was the first new missionary in our mission for twenty-three years, so that our beloved Brother Carlson who has been on the field twenty-six years is my immediate senior missionary. We thank God for the gracious three years He has granted us in this land and we have determined by His grace to give our entire lives to His work in this land. He has put in our hearts a deep love for these people and we will give anything, even our lives, that they might come to know Him. We are here for no other reason but to tell these people of Jesus who loves them. And because of the present situation we are determined more than ever not to give up, but to continue by His grace. We would like to tell you of our many problems so that you could pray for us more intelligently but we believe it would be unwise to do so in an open letter as this one is, yet we plead with you not to forget that, "HE ANSWERS PRAYER."

It has indeed been a great joy and privilege to be here in Fukuoka this year and to co-operate with the Southern Baptists. We have been able to do so little because our main task has been the study of the language. However it has been our joy to teach four Bible classes each week and to speak in the church once in awhile and to help where ever possible. It has been such a joy to be here with Mother and Grandmother this year and we shall always look back on it with great happiness. This year Grandmother has passed her eighty-third birthday and we do thank God for her and for Mother, and the blessing they have been to us. As we write this letter we recall that it is just six years since Father went to his heavenly reward. We ask your prayers that we may be able to follow on in the great work of spreading the gospel in this land, the greatest work in all the world, to lead others to a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

God willing, this September we are hoping to move out into the country

districts near Nagoya. On returning from our Annual Conference which was held in Tokyo on March 29th to 31st, I stopped off and looked over the field near Nagoya. "There is a great door and effectual opened unto us and there are many adversaries." At the present time there are only six missionary families in the whole city of Nagoya with a population of almost three million, besides the country districts that have no witness save that of the Roman Catholics who are gaining a real foothold in Japan of late. As yet we have not decided exactly to which village we are going but we are looking to Him to lead and guide us.

We feel that our work in this land is getting harder and harder and that the door seems to be closing to the work of preaching the true gospel without fear or favour. A verse that has brought us much comfort is that promise found in Romans 16:20: "AND THE GOD OF PEACE SHALL BRUISE SATAN UNDER YOUR FEET SHORTLY."

Many of you have asked with what mission we are working and we are delighted to answer, for we believe that it is a mission of God's own founding thru His faithful servant Fredrich Franson. The Mission is the Scandinavian Alliance Mission and if any of you would be interested in reading an interesting biography of one of God's servants you can secure it from our mission headquarters at 2839 McLean Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The name of the book is "A burning and shining light." This book has been a great blessing to us and to our Japanese friends who have read it. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Your missionaries for Christ in Japan,
Helen and Tim Pietsch

Acts 20:24 (The motto of our lives)

37 Aoi Cho
Higashi Ku
Nagoya, Japan
December 1, 1939



Four generations in Japan

Dear, dear Friends:

We wish we could write each one of you a personal letter at this Christmas time and wish you a very blessed Christmas and New Year, but though we write a circular letter we hope that you do not think it impersonal, for we are thinking of each one of you dear ones as we write. How we would like to see you and be with you at this Christmas time, but we are so happy here for it is the place He has sent us, and "Where Jesus is, 'tis heaven there."

Rejoice with us in the gracious way God has led us safely to this place after three years of prayer and pleading for the door to open. Some of you have been praying with us about coming to this place and now God has answered our prayers, and let us offer unto Him the sacrifice of thankful hearts. Those of you who have received our past letters know something of the field here and you can understand the mingled feeling of joy and responsibility that is ours as we reflect and see the goodness of the Lord and then look forward and see the task that lies before us. As far as our mission is concerned we are pioneers in this district. Though our mission has worked in Japan almost fifty years and though this is the geographical center of our field there has never been a missionary here before nor even a Japanese pastor. In the leading of God we came without any Japanese helper but we are asking Him because of this to make us more than ever dependent upon Him.

When we came to Nagoya early in October we did not know a single Japanese in the whole city. Now after only two months God has blessed and we have found that there are sixteen Christians in this city that come from our churches in other places. Most of them have come since we came to Nagoya. How we can see the hand of the Lord in it all and we know that when He putteth forth His sheep

He goeth before them. On the 20th of November, Pastor Matsumoto of our church in Ito came down and we had a special meeting and it was then decided to begin a church here in our home as this is more central for all than any of the other homes. We decided to have regular services on Sunday night. On Friday nights we have prayer meeting and Bible study and on Sunday afternoons at one thirty we have Sunday School. Last Sunday twenty seven boys and girls came and what a joy it is to tell them of Jesus.

Some of you have heard of our added joy and treasure, our real sunbeam, who came into our home on June 19th at 6:00 A.M. just as the sun was rising in the Sunrise Kingdom. Now there are four generations in our home in Japan. We are grateful for the prayers that have been offered for her and for us. When she was born, both Sally Sue and Helen had a bad start but God has answered prayer on their behalf and now both are well and strong, an added indication to us to come to this new field of Nagoya. Sally Sue now weighs almost fifteen pounds and is the picture of health, a happy, sweet little girl and we cannot cease to thank God for her. She is sweeter every day. You can imagine how proud we are of her and we could write volumes almost on her cute doings. We have also given her a Japanese name after our little sister Mercy and we call her Keiko. (恵子)

It was a very long move here from Fukuoka but everything arrived safely and all needs were met for which we thank Him. It was a trip of over six hundred miles and all our belongings had to be moved by freight care, and since Fukuoka is on the southern island of Kyushu, the car had to be taken on a ferry across the Straights. Now we are here in Nagoya which is about two hundred and fifty miles from Tokyo where all the rest of our missionaries are located. We have many opportunities here for Him already; of course there are restrictions but there is plenty to do and we count it a great privilege to be here.

It was hard to leave Mother and Grandmother and come so far away from them when we are all in the same land, yet we must be faithful to Him who has called us. Mother and Grandmother had moved from Fukuoka to Kokura where the Training School for young women was to have been built but we have just heard that it is to be built in Fukuoka so they will have to move back again. Edwin and Mary Ellen Dozier and little Sarah Ellen came back safely to Japan this last September and stopped by with us in Nojiri a few days on their way back to Fukuoka. Edwin has been here to see us once in Nagoya also. They are all well and we thank God for taking care of them while they were on furlough.

In our letter of last Christmas some of you will remember that we mentioned some of the needs for new missionaries in Japan and we

invited young people to write to us about work in this land. Japan needs the wonderful message of THE ONE TRUE GOD more now than ever before. JAPAN NEEDS CHRIST. We wish there were more interest among our friends for the spreading of His Work in this land. Surely Japan needs evangelizing. Are you interested in the evangelism of these people? We know some of you are but what about the rest of you? We are not willing to give up. He has sent us here and has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. We would like to ask again, "What are you doing to help in making Christ known in Japan"? You perhaps have condemned these people, but what have you done in helping to point them to Him, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD? Have you even prayed for this land and its evangelization? We do with all our hearts appreciate your interest in us but we plead that you be prayerfully interested in making Christ known to the millions in this land for whom He gave His life. Japan is still open; for how long we do not know, but it seems the door may soon close to those who will not compromise. We have no great results to report, nor any startling conversions and that is what makes our work here so hard, to go on, being tread upon, seeing no results and the Christians we have weakening, and then we cry, "Lord help us" and His reply comes, "My strength is made perfect in weakness," "be thou faithful unto death."

Perhaps some of you are asking, "what kind of work are you doing for Christ in Nagoya"? We believe God has called us to do country work among the farmers and we try to spend as much time as we possibly can out in the fields talking to them personally and giving out tracts. The farmers we find are more willing to listen to the gospel than any other group in Japan. Coming through the fields the other day all we could see was old men and women for, the young men are all off to the war. This kind of work with the farmers is simply sowing the seed and the results are not seen perhaps for years but we believe there shall come a day of harvest. Then too, we have started a church here in our home. As we do not have any Japanese helper I am preaching twice each week and it keeps me busy in preparation because my Japanese is still very limited. Helen has charge of the Sunday School and the boys and girls seem to be taking great interest in it. Little Sally Sue is a great help in our work. With her happy smile and rosy cheeks she interests the boys and girls to come to Sunday School and we have been able to get into several homes because of having our little sunbeam.

On the fifteenth of November each year is the "Seven-Five-Three Festival" at which time the parents take the children of that age and

present them to the gods at the shrines praying for them health and good luck. The girls dress up in their finest kimono or perhaps get new ones for the occasion. The boys dress as ancient samurai or as modern army generals or navy admirals. Here in Nagoya is one of the biggest shrines in the whole country called Atsuta where one of the Imperial Regalia, an ancient sword, is enshrined and worshipped by the people. About sixty miles from here is Ise which is the seat of Shintoism and where the sun-goddess is enshrined. You might be interested to know that right at our back door is a shrine where candles are kept burning all the time in memory of the dead. In all the homes around about us are god-shelves where the boys and girls, fathers and mothers bow every morning. It is from homes like these that the boys and girls come to our Sunday School.

Perhaps before this letter reaches some of you Christmas will be past and the New Year begun. We pray for you God's richest blessing during the Christmas time when we remember again God's UNSPEAKABLE GIFT, the Lord Jesus Christ. We hope that the New Year will be a blessed one for each of us and that this coming year we may grow more like Christ than we have this past one. Perhaps our Lord will return in 1940? Oh what a joy it will be to see Him and to be like Him. Perhaps there are some who may read this letter who would not go with Him when He comes. Are you sure you will go with Him? If not, right now won't you accept Him, God's gift of Eternal Life?

Some of you perhaps have been troubled by our many addresses since we have been in Japan and now we hope, at least for awhile, we are settled, and if you write to us at the above address it will reach us safely. Though we are a long way from our loved ones out here in a land that is at war we are very very happy in spite of all the difficulties because we are confident God has sent us here and we count it all joy to be His witnesses.

In closing we plead with you to pray for us in our new work for Christ. With our own talents we can do absolutely nothing but BY HIS SPIRIT we can and will magnify Christ our Lord and Saviour. Please pray for our work with the farmers, for the meetings here in our home that God will help us more and more with the language that we may lead many in this place to a knowledge of Christ. With love to you each one, and we would love to hear from you.

Your missionaries for Christ in Japan

Helen, Sally Sue and Tim Pietsch